



Former Prime Minister Deve Gowda to contest from Tumakuru

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Jet Airways grounds 7 more aircraft, only 42 planes are in operation

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Besides Amethi, Rahul likely to contest from a seat in a southern State

page 10



Harbhajan, Tahir spin CSK to facile win against RCB in IPL opener

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### NEARBY



BJP leader booked for burning photos

LUCKNOW  
A BJP leader in Uttar Pradesh has been booked under the stringent Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for allegedly burning the photos of BSP supreme Mayawati and SP president Akhilesh Yadav during a Holika Dahan event in Barabanki.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Two die while cleaning waste treatment plant

NEW DELHI  
Two staffers of a posh restaurant in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden died and two others were injured while cleaning the eatery's kitchen waste treatment plant on Saturday afternoon. The police have registered a case, but no arrests have been made so far.

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## Prasad in, Shatrughan out in BJP's line-up of candidates

The party drops Shanta Kumar in Kangra, to support Sumalatha in Mandya

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

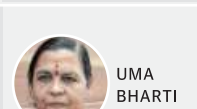
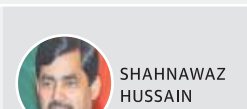
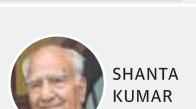
The BJP on Saturday released its third, fourth, fifth and sixth lists of candidates, along with an omnibus NDA list released in Patna that saw film star Shatrughan Sinha being dropped from the Patna Sahib seat, which will now be fought by Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Another significant decision taken by the BJP's Central Election Committee was not to put up a candidate in Mandya in Karnataka and offer support to Sumalatha, Independent candidate and widow of former Union Minister Ambareesh. She is contesting against Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

### Who will fight?

Some of the key inclusions and exclusions as the BJP released its third, fourth and fifth lists

#### IN THE FRAY



The party also continued the ongoing generational shift by dropping former Union Minister Shanta Kumar, who represents Kangra. This follows BJP president Amit Shah replacing former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani in Gandhinagar.

Union Minister Uma Bharti has opted out of the race.

She wrote to Mr. Shah stating her intention. She has been appointed the party's vice-president.

#### Giriraj Singh shifted

Former Union Minister Shahnawaz Hussain was denied nomination in his old seat of Bhagalpur, Bihar, as it has been added to the JD(U)

quota. The party moved Union Minister Giriraj Singh from Nawada – now in the Lok Janshakti Party's kitty – to Begusarai, to which he is reluctant to shift. Candidates were announced for 39 out of the 40 seats in Bihar.

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BIHAR CANDIDATES ▶ PAGE 10

## Stop writing love letters to Pak., Cong. tells PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using anti-Pakistan rhetoric merely to drum up support for his politics, even as he dealt with Islamabad in a surreptitious manner.

Citing an unpublicised letter from Mr. Modi to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Pakistan's National Day, the Congress said Mr. Modi should stop writing "love letters".

On Friday, the BJP sought to play up anti-Pakistan sentiments by attacking the

Congress for its leader Sam Pitroda's comments. India had also boycotted a reception at the Pakistan High Commission here to mark the National Day.

Turning the tables on the BJP, Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted: "#Chowkidar hid the fact

that he had wished Pak PM on Pak National Day without a word on Pak terrorism. Muscular politics soap opera for people and media..."

Confirmation of Mr. Modi's greetings came in a tweet by Mr. Khan.

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## MGR swag in Colombo's busiest marketplace

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

S. Manickam, 48, has no qualms about being overdressed or receiving curious glances at Colombo's Old Town Hall market at Pettah, where he works as a daily-wage labourer. Sporting a shiny shirt, trousers, a tie and sunglasses, he throws all the weight of his lean frame forward, forcing the push cart ahead. "I follow only my thalaivan's (leader's) philosophy," he says.

Known popularly as the 'MGR lookalike' at the market, one of the busiest



Manickam. • MEERA SRINIVASAN

and oldest in Sri Lanka, Mr. Manickam stands out amidst the rows of shops, where noise, dust and chaos don't seem out of place.

"We are called nattamais. Our work is to carry the load from the trucks to these shops and, at times, from the shops to other markets or

stores," he says.

"I spend all my earnings on new clothes. For the [Tamil] New Year in April, I'm getting a suit in golden yellow made for LKR19,500 (roughly ₹7,500)," says the self-proclaimed ardent fan of actor-politician M.G. Ramachandran. "When I was a young boy, my mother showed me his [MGR's] picture and said 'he is MGR mama. Not just for you, for the whole world. We must worship him'."

A few movies and years later, Mr. Manickam was convinced that she was right. "Wearing clothes like him is

my daily tribute to him.

Thalaivar said 'piraridam kai katti velai seiyiyade, tie katti velai sei' ('While working for someone, don't fold your hands and be subservient. Wear a tie and take pride in your labour'). That is my motto."

Drawing out old newspaper cuttings from a bag, he points to a picture and says: "This was taken at an event held in Kandy to mark thalaivar's centenary. Thalaivar was born in Kandy, here in Sri Lanka. I, too, was born in this country. I follow his policy and live happily," he says.

## Initials hurdle hits PAN-Aadhaar link

Decades-old software does not allow initials while applying for tax ID card

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI

Tens of thousands of people may not be able to file income tax returns for the coming financial year as they are unable to link their Aadhaar to their PANs, for no fault of theirs.

Since a person's identity is authenticated biometrically, Aadhaar can allow initials in the name. On the other hand, PAN is based on an old system that will not accept initials even if they are entered. A large number of people, especially in south India, are not being able to link the two because of the name mismatch, officials of the Income Tax Department told *The Hindu*. The officials have no solution to the problem from their end.

#### Problem since the start

"This is a problem we have encountered a number of times since the linkage process started," an official said. "In Aadhaar and passport, a person's identity is tied to their biometrics, so their name on the document can have initials. The PAN software is at least 30 years old, and even if we en-



Officials have no solution to the problem. • REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

### SUNDAY SPECIAL

ter initials, it will not accept them."

"This is a problem that has come up because the two separate software systems are at different levels of sophistication," he said. "The number of people affected is at least in tens of thousands, and the problem is even more in south India where the names are very long, and abbreviated in many cases."

The government has mandated that PAN and Aadhaar be linked for filing income tax returns from the next fiscal, a decision the Supreme Court has upheld.

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## Islamic State loses final battle in Syria

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BAGHOUZ

Kurdish-led forces declared victory over the Islamic State (IS) in Syria on Saturday after liberating the last pocket of the territory held by the militants.

This marks the end of a brutal self-styled caliphate the IS created in large parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014.

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## One held in mob attack on Bhondsi family

HEMANI BHANDARI  
BHONDSI

Members of the Muslim family who were thrashed by a group of men on the evening of Holi in Dhamaspur village, said on Saturday that even women and children were not spared by the mob.

Police said they have arrested one person, Mahesh, a resident of a nearby village, after examining a video of the incident.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 2

## Yeddyurappa diary forged, says I-T official

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The Income Tax Department on Saturday dismissed as "forged" the diary attributed to former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa with entries allegedly showing payments made to BJP leaders.

Following a report in *The Caravan* magazine, which cited pages of the diary seized during an I-T raid to show that Mr. Yeddyurappa had paid bribes to the tune of ₹1,800 crore to the BJP's top leadership, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday sought a Lokpal inquiry.

Addressing journalists, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax and Director General (I-T Investigations), Karnataka and Goa, B.R. Balakrishna said, "After due diligence, the department has concluded that the documents were forged."

He also cited a statement from the Central Board of Direct Taxes on Friday, which said it could not get a forensic examination for handwriting match of the diary as forensic science laboratories demanded original documents, which were not available.

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ASSETS ATTACHED ▶ PAGE 8